

**STILLWATER COUNTY
COMMISSIONER MINUTES**

<p>Notice: These minutes reflect the proceedings of the Board of County Commissioners. The official minutes are on file with the Clerk and Recorder MCA 7-4-2611(2)(b).</p>
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**REGULAR MEETING
June 22, 2021**

PRESENT	Commissioner Mark Crago, Chair, Commissioners Tyrel Hamilton and Steve Riveland, members; Shannon Fisher Admin Assistant. Others Present: Kevin Ray, Road & Bridge; Joe Morse, Finance/HR; Chip Kem, SCSO; Jerry Friend, Treasurer; Maureen Wiltshire, DES; Emily Schabacker, Stillwater County News; Citizens: Shirlee Keffer, Maurie Petterson, Penny Redli, Gayle Helt
PLEDGE	Commissioner Crago opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.
MINUTES	June 8, 2021 and June 16, 2021 Special Agenda Meeting. Commissioner Hamilton MOVED to approve the minutes as presented. Commissioner Riveland SECONDED . <u>Motion passed unanimously.</u>
CLAIMS	107339 through 107459 in the amount of \$984,108.20. Commissioner Riveland MOVED to approve the claims 107339 through 107459 in the amount of \$984,108.20. Commissioner Hamilton SECONDED . Discussion – Gayle Helt asked what is the nature of the claims. Commissioner Crago responded that there were two larger claims in the batch. One was a \$249,000.00 claim which is the payment for the leased motor graders and the other is approximately \$300,000.00 which is the final payout to the design company who helped on the facility capital improvement projects. An unnamed gentleman asked if this was for the event center. Commissioner Crago confirmed this payment was for the event center. <u>Motion passed unanimously.</u>
ANNOUNCEMENTS	Maureen Wiltshire announced that this is officially the start of the fire season and the county currently has enacted Stage 1 fire restrictions. These are the same restrictions that have been put in place in Yellowstone and Musselshell counties as well as DNRC and BLM lands. These restrictions are due to the abnormally hot and dry weather in the county as well as drought conditions. There are currently active fires in Carbon County. Stage II fire restrictions are being considered at this point if there is a need. An unnamed gentleman asked if open and private fireworks displays will be shut down before the 4 th of July. Maureen Wiltshire stated that the county is not at that point yet and restrictions are reviewed on a weekly basis. Said unnamed gentleman added that it is drier than a popcorn fart out there and he would ask the Commissioners to move to a stage that would allow the ban of private fireworks on vegetated property. Commissioner Riveland noted that a meeting is scheduled on June 28, 2021 to discuss this and that Carbon County is also currently in Stage 1 fire restrictions. An unnamed citizen asked what is Stage 1. Commissioner Hamilton explained that Stage 1 bans fires outside of established and designated fire pits. Fires are still allowed in campsites. This bans all open burning and the burn permits system has been shut down in conjunction with Stage 1. Stage II would ban driving through grassy areas, welding on fences in vegetated areas, all explosives. Commissioner Hamilton further explained that Maureen Wiltshire is part of a regional fire call that discusses conditions regionally with other entities to determine fire conditions. Commissioner Riveland added that all fires have to be in an improved campground. Commissioner Crago noted that the DES and Commission rely heavily on input and considerations from the local fire chiefs as well. Commissioner Hamilton also added that

local fire halls and DNRC are under severity staffing. Park City, Columbus and Absarokee will be staffed 24 hours a day with personnel or on call or at the department ready to go out with the DNRC wildlands trucks. Commissioner Crago stated that as a reminder, County offices will be closed Monday July 5th 2021 in observation of the 4th of July holiday. The July 6 agenda meeting is a traveling agenda meeting and will be held at the Stillwater County Pavilion in Columbus at 6:30 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA **Commission**

A) Norton House Image-Based Documentation in the amount of \$2500.00

FILE ITEMS

Treasurer

A) Report for the Month of April in the amount of \$50,091,292.40.

Commission

- A) Resolution 2021-14 implementing Stage 1 Fire Restrictions Countywide in Stillwater County
- B) Absarokee Water & Sewer request for ARPA funds

Commissioner Hamilton **MOVED** to consent to the consent agenda and file the file items. Commissioner Riveland **SECONDED**. Discussion – An unnamed person asked if there was a dollar amount for the Absarokee Water and Sewer ARPA funds. Commissioner Crago replied that there is a \$500,000.00 match for a \$1,000,000.00 project. The specifics will need to be worked out at a later date and with ARPA fund requests coming in, they need to be presented publicly. There is a water filtration project for a well that they would like to bring back on line in the Hawkins Park area. The same unnamed person asked if the county has received ARPA funds already. Commissioner Hamilton replied that the county does not have the funds yet, however, there is a certain amount that have been allocated to the County that can be used for projects such as water & sewer, infrastructure, broadband infrastructure and storm water infrastructure. Absarokee Water & Sewer can apply on their own for these funds. There are three pools of money, designation from the federal government, designation from the state government and a competitive group from the state government. Motion passed unanimously

REGULAR BUSINESS **Solid Waste**

A) Request to remove solid waste assessments from Tax ID 3010324 and Tax ID 10027. Commissioner Riveland **MOVED** to approve the request to remove solid waste assessments from Tax ID 3010321 and Tax ID 10027. Commissioner Hamilton **SECONDED**. Discussion – Commissioner Hamilton stated that this is for an uninhabitable trailer house at 307 Clark Avenue in Park City. The Solid Waste Board voted unanimously to remove the assessment. Motion passed unanimously.

B) Request to remove solid waste assessments from Tax ID 3200644. Commissioner Hamilton **MOVED** to approve the request to remove solid waste assessments from Tax ID 3200644. Commissioner Riveland **SECONDED**. Discussion – An unnamed person asked if this is the same type of situation as the previous item. Commissioner Hamilton replied that this is for an uninhabitable mobile home at 199 Grove Creek, Fishtail and the Solid Waste Board voted unanimously to remove the assessment. Jerry Friend asked what the real property 10027 was. Commissioner Hamilton explained that there is a mobile home and a house on the property. Motion passed unanimously.

Commission

A) Draw request for CIP Planning Grant. Commissioner Riveland **MOVED** to approve the draw request for CIP Planning Grant. Commissioner Hamilton **SECONDED**. Discussion - An unnamed person asked if there was a dollar amount for this. Commissioner Crago explained that this is the TSEP grant for \$15,000.00 that the county received to help offset the cost of the CIP plan. This is a request for the funds to reimburse the county. An unnamed person asked what the CIP acronym stands for. Commissioner Crago replied that it stands for the capital improvement plan. Commissioner Riveland added that it is the countywide plan.

Commissioner Hamilton also added that it is a planning document that several departments use for their planning that has not been updated since 2007. Motion passed unanimously.

B) Signature certification form and designation of deposit. Commissioner Hamilton **MOVED** to approve the signature certification form and designation of deposit. Commissioner Riveland **SECONDED**. Discussion - Commissioner Crago stated that this formalizes the TSEP planning grant that shows who is allowed to sign for the money and where the money will be deposited. Motion passed unanimously.

Finance

A) Approve request for ARPA funds. Commissioner Riveland **MOVED** to approve the request for ARPA funds. Commissioner Hamilton **SECONDED**. Discussion – Commissioner Hamilton explained that this designates Joe Morse as finance director so he can request the funds from the federal and state level and once received the county has until 2024 to allocate the funds and 2025 to spend the funds. Commissioner Crago added that the fund received directly from the treasury, it is required that the Commission or the designated finance officer make the request, the funds will be put into a special account and those funds will be used for designated projects which will be reported to the state as to their use. There is no exact amount yet but it will be approximately \$1,870,000.00 that will be requested. Half of the funds will be received this year and the remainder will be received next June. Commissioner Hamilton added that quarterly reports for the funds are required whether they are expended or not. Commissioner Crago further stated that ARPA funds have not been requested or received yet. An unnamed person asked how many requests have been made and what are they for. Commissioner Crago replied that the county will make one request for the funds. Commissioner Hamilton added that once the funds are received, they can be used for broadband infrastructure, wastewater and stormwater and those funds will be earmarked at the county level to be utilized for the infrastructure buildout of the law and justice center. Gayle Helt asked whether or not the funds can be used until 2026. Commissioner Hamilton replied that the county has until 2024 to allocate the funds and you have until 2026 to spend the funds. The county is currently working with the planning department to make sure the funds are allocated properly to kick off these projects. Jerry Friend stated that someone do the proper research because some government money and grants cannot be held in an interest-bearing account. Commissioner Hamilton stated that it is his understanding that this one can be and this question was covered extensively by MACO. Motion passed unanimously.

B) Communications fiber optic contract for the Sheriff's office (\$699.00 per month for 36 months) and Courthouse (\$699.00 per month/36 months). Commissioner Hamilton **MOVED** to approve the communications fiber contract for the Sheriff's office (\$699.00 per month for 36 months) and Courthouse (\$699.00 per month/36 months). Commissioner Riveland **SECONDED**. Discussion – Commissioner Crago stated that this contract is a transferable contract and the service can transfer to a new facility. Commissioner Hamilton stated that he believes this is critical for the sheriff's department due to the fact that currently body cam uploads are taking approximately four or more hours which keeps the deputies in the offices waiting for the upload or to go out without cameras. Chip Kem added that there is more equipment that is run off the internet now, including dispatch equipment and radios. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON COUNTY BUSINESS – Shirlee Keffer stated that while looking at the agenda, she would like to see a breakdown of the various funds especially the funds for the building project funds and how much of the \$50,000.000.00 has been set aside for capital improvements. This would be informative for the citizens of Stillwater County. An unnamed person stated that he would agree that an itemized report should be made available at least online for the simple fact that most people cannot attend a Tuesday morning meeting or obtain this information and would like to see the treasurers report online and itemized.

With no further comments heard the meeting was adjourned at 9:23 a.m.

APPROVED BY: /s/ Mark Crago, Commissioner Chairman
ATTEST: Heidi L. Stadel, Clerk and Recorder